AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace figure 27 with the attached replacement figure 27, which is labeled "Replacement Sheet".

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application after this amendment adds new claims 12-18. Claims 1-10 have been amended to correct typographic errors, to respond to the rejections and/or to further clarify the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added by the amendment and new claims. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

The specification is objected to under 37 CFR 1.71 as being incomprehensible. Applicants respectfully disagree that the specification as originally presented is incomprehensible, however, in the interest of expediting prosecution and clarifying the disclosure, the specification has been amended to clarify when the slash symbol means "and" and when it means "or". Applicants respectfully submit that the disclosure as presented enables a clear understanding of the subject matter discussed and enables a reasonable search of the prior art.

Claims 2-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-10 have been amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein. In particular, claims 2 and 3 have been amended to delete references to "input disconnection", and the slashes have been changed to "and". It is respectfully submitted that the claims as presented are definite, and therefore it is requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

The Examiner objects to figure 27 for not being designated by a legend such as "Prior Art". A replacement sheet is submitted herewith including the label "Prior Art" for figure 27, and therefore it is requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 6, 8, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by the Allegedly Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter referred to as the AAPA). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner relies on figure 27 of Applicant's specification in rejecting these claims, asserting that all of the claimed features are disclosed by figure 27. However, each of the respective claims includes features not disclosed in figure 27.

For instance, the features of claim 5 of means recognizing a setting of validity and invalidity (shown as element 27 in figure 9) and means validating and invalidating (shown as element 8 in figure 9) are not shown in figure 27.

The features of claim 6 of means managing plural kinds of transmission grant information (shown as elements 31-36 8 in figure 11); means detecting transmission grant information (shown as element 6 in figure 11); and means identifying a kind of transmission grant information (shown as element 6 in figure 11) are not shown in figure 27.

The features of claim 8 of means recognizing a switchover (shown as element 29 in figure 14) are not shown in figure 27.

The features of claim 10 of means recognizing plural settings (shown as element 31 in figure 18), and means executing the switchover (shown as element 14 in figure 18) are not shown in figure 27.

Accordingly, independent claims 5, 6, 8 and 10 are believed to be patentably distinguished over the AAPA. Claim 11 depends from claim 1 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the AAPA in view of Buhler (U.S. 6,192,036). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Buhler apparently discloses a method for operating a data transmission system with a plurality of stations connected over a common bus, only one of which has access rights to the bus

at a given time and controls the data transmission over the bus with call messages addressed to several stations simultaneously (Buhler; abstract). In Buhler, since the actual transmission times are often short compared to the internal processing time of a polling message by the polled station, the time required for processing a polling message to a plurality of other stations is determined by the response time of the slowest station (Buhler; col. 1, lines 36-41). Buhler's object is to avoid collision of signals from a plurality of terminals. Therefore Buhler controls transmission intervals so as not to perform a transmission request to other terminals during a fixed period of time that is a maximum time for receiving a signal from the corresponding terminal in response to a transmission request thereto.

The present invention according to independent claims 1-3, 7, and 9 is different from Buhler in that when a response to a transmission request is validated with a message for a terminal (subscriber unit), ***the transmission request itself for the corresponding terminal itself is stopped for a period until the corresponding terminal processes the message*** to enable response to self-addressed transmission request in order to prevent a network unit from determining that there is no response (LOS). It should be noted that the present invention is only performed when initiating communications.

In particular, claim 1 recites that the network unit includes means generating polling information to ***allocate a transmission grant to the subscriber units*** by using the transmission grant information, and means ***suspending a transmission of the polling information*** for a fixed time in consideration of a processing time of the subscriber units from a time when the message has been completely transmitted. The Examiner admits that the latter feature is not disclosed in the prior art (Office Action; page 12, lines 3-5). The Examiner asserts that this feature is

disclosed in Buhler in figure 1. However, the waiting period apparently disclosed in Buhler relates to:

> The method is performed by the "immediate response" principle, i.e., ***no other traffic takes place over the bus between call message and response messages or the elapse of wait period 6***. Thus, the required wait period 6 can be calculated if the response times of the called stations 2, 3, and 4, as well as the transmission times of the response messages are known. Message transmissions can be repeated, e.g., due to transmission errors.

(Buhler; col. 3, lines 14-21; emphasis added). In contrast, the suspension of the transmission of polling information recited in claim 1 is entirely different from the absence of traffic between the call message and the elapse of the wait period in Buhler. As the specification in the instant application makes clear:

> when the transmission grant information ... is invalid, the polling controller 7 instructs the polling information generator 3 ***to stop the polling*** by the concerned transmission grant information ... ***before the transmission of the message*** notifying the invalidity of the transmission grant information ... or at the transmission start thereof (1st transmission time) of the message.

(Specification; page 17, lines 12-17; emphasis added). Therefore, the present invention recites suspension of the transmission of the polling information, while Buhler apparently discusses waiting a specified period while response messages are received. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of the AAPA and Buhler, the propriety of which is respectfully not conceded, does not render the present invention obvious.

Accordingly, independent claims 1-3, 7, and 9 are believed to be patentable over the AAPA in view of Buhler under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 4 depends from claim 3 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 3 is allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

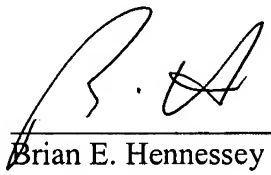
New claims 12-18 respectively depend from claims 2-8, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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